What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] 1. An automotive interior component for a vehicle door, comprising:

a door trim panel capable of being mounted to the vehicle door, said door trim panel including a switch panel carrying at least one first electrical switch and a flip cover pivotally attached to said switch panel, said flip cover having an opened position in which said first electrical switch is accessible and a closed position in which said first electrical switch is inaccessible; and

a first electroluminescent lamp mounted to said flip cover, said first electroluminescent lamp positioned for emitting visible light, when powered, to illuminate said first electrical switch on said switch panel when said flip cover is in said opened position.

[Claim 2] 2. The automotive interior component of claim 1 wherein said door trim panel further comprises a bolster positioned proximate to said flip cover and a second electroluminescent lamp mounted to said bolster, said second electroluminescent lamp positioned for emitting visible light, when energized, to illuminate said flip cover.

[Claim 3] 3. The automotive interior component of claim 2 wherein said flip cover includes a lower surface facing said switch panel in the closed position, an upper surface carrying at least one second electrical switch, said second electroluminescent lamp illuminating said second electrical switch when said flip cover is in said closed position.

[Claim 4] 4. The automotive interior component of claim 2 wherein said bolster is an integrally molded portion of said trim panel.

[Claim 5] 5. The automotive interior component of claim 2 wherein said bolster and said second electroluminescent lamp comprise a unitary molded assembly.

[Claim 6] 6. The automotive interior component of claim 1 wherein said flip cover and said first electroluminescent lamp comprise a unitary molded assembly.

[Claim 7] 7. The automotive interior component of claim 1 wherein said door trim panel further includes an arm rest supporting said switch panel.

[Claim 8] 8. A method of making an automotive interior component in a mold with a mold sections that form a mold cavity with a geometrical shape resembling a flip cover for a flip pack and a gate for filling the mold cavity, comprising:

placing an electroluminescent lamp between the mold sections;

closing the mold sections and injecting a molten polymer resin through the gate to fill a portion of the mold cavity unfilled by the electroluminescent lamp; and

opening the mold sections after the molten polymer resin solidifies and ejecting the automotive interior component having the geometrical shape of the flip cover from the mold.

[Claim 9] 9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

shaping the automotive interior component after ejection from the mold to define a final shape of the flip panel.